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Second Brigade completes Iraq deployment with final welcome home ceremony

FORT STEWART, Ga. (July 25, 2008) – About 50 Soldiers with the 3rd Infantry Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team came home to a humid welcome Thursday evening, wrapping up the more than 14-month deployment to Iraq for the brigade.

More than 100 friends and family were on hand to greet the final group of Spartan Soldiers to return from combat operations in Arab Jabour. Second Brigade commander Col. Terry Ferrell praised his Soldiers for their service and welcomed them back to Fort Stewart's soil.

While deployed, the Spartan Brigade detained more than 800 terrorist suspects and helped foster Iraqi self-governance as part of the surge. Second Brigade Soldiers blocked weapons from entering the Iraqi capital, protected the local population, and trained Iraqi security forces.

Following Ferrell's welcome and calling out the brigade's motto, "Send me!", and the singing of the Marne and Army songs by all, the family members and friends greeted their Soldiers.